



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Response to OMiK Head of Mission Ambassador Werner Wnendt**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kyle Scott  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
January 19, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Wnendt to his second appearance before the Permanent Council.

You've done an excellent job, Mr. Ambassador, in summarizing for us the current political landscape in Kosovo and the principal challenges facing UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari. As you know, Secretary Rice recently appointed Ambassador Frank Wisner as the U.S. envoy to help support Mr. Ahtisaari's efforts to negotiate a settlement that will help enhance this region's stability, promote democracy, and accelerate its Euro-Atlantic integration. We look to both parties to participate constructively throughout these talks.

With respect to the recent Mission activities Ambassador Wnendt summarized, the United States commends OMiK's efforts to help prepare Kosovo Albanian and Serb leaders and representatives from civil society to participate in the status talks by teaching them negotiation skills. We also support the training and guidance OSCE teams have provided to the new administrative units in the three decentralization Pilot Municipal projects and welcome continued OSCE support for the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government as they work to intensify their efforts to implement Standards.

The United States continues to support the expansion of OMiK's field presence through the creation of Municipal Teams in each municipality. We believe this restructuring will improve OMiK's ability to monitor and report on developments in the field, especially those related to the adherence to human rights, the security and integration of Kosovo's minority communities, and decentralization efforts.

We realize, however, that we must do more than just give our approval; we must also seek out the personnel to fill the new human rights and democratization positions, which OMiK must fill to make this field presence and field expansion a success. We intend to do our part in this respect, and urge all participating States to also look for opportunities to second high-quality individuals.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to conclude by noting our desire for the parties to the Kosovo status talks to reach a negotiated settlement. While it would be premature to discuss a status outcome, we agree with Ambassador Wnendt that a continued international presence will be needed in Kosovo regardless of the status decision. Clearly, the OSCE will be a crucial part of the follow-on international civilian presence in Kosovo and we look forward to continued

consultations between the Contact Group, Mr. Ahtisaari, UNMIK and the OSCE on the role of the OSCE in Kosovo as the talks proceed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.